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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 24 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 15 to 21 January 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 24 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 21 January 2008, inclusive

Air violations

On 15 January 2008, at 2220 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over the sea off Naqurah, proceeded as far as Beirut, circled over the areas of Beirut, Damur and the South, and then left at 0100 hours on 16 January 2008 over the sea off Naqurah.

On 17 January 2008:

- Between 0800 and 1130 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitude;
- Between 0830 and 1150 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the areas of Naqurah, Bint Jubayl and Tibnin at high altitude;
- Between 2023 and 2143 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace; they entered over Yarun heading north, proceeded as far as Beirut, circled between Beirut and the South, then left over Naqurah.

On 19 January 2008:

- Between 1200 and 1800 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over Alma al-Sha`b, circled over the regions of Beirut, the Bekaa and the South, then left over Alma al-Sha`b;
- At 2159 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over the sea off Naqurah, circled over the regions of the South, then left at 0055 hours on 20 January 2008 over Alma al-Sha`b.

On 20 January 2008:

- Between 1230 and 1325 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Naqurah, Tibnin, Zahrani and Tyre areas at various altitudes, breaking the sound barrier over the Zahrani and Tyre areas;
- Between 1140 and 1300 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the areas of Naqurah and Tibnin;
- Between 1855 and 2210 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over the sea off Tyre heading east, proceeded as far as Marj `Uyun, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Alma al-Sha`b.

On 21 January 2008:

- Between 1033 and 1300 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace; they entered over the sea off Naqurah, circled over all regions of Lebanon, and then left over Kafr Kila. Those planes were met with fire from anti-aircraft artillery of the Lebanese Army (*lam mim* 6);

- Between 1230 and 1315 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace; they entered over the sea off Tyre, circled between Beirut and the South, and then left over Naqurah. Those planes were met with fire from anti-aircraft artillery of the Lebanese Army (*lam mim* 6);

- Between 1709 and 2100 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace; it entered over the sea off Tyre heading east, circled over the regions of the South, then left over the sea off Naqurah.

Sea violations

None.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 17 January 2008, at 0320 hours, Israeli enemy forces directed a searchlight mounted on a Hummer vehicle for 15 seconds towards position *lam mim* 6 at Jabal Balat as they were moving between *ghayn* 23 (Birkat Risha) and *ghayn* 33 (Jabal Bu Dajaj).

On 18 January 2008, at 1000 hours, in the Maysat area along the course of the Wazzani River/Hasbayya, an Israeli enemy patrol kidnapped Ja`far Mustafa. At 1850 hours, the Israeli enemy released him in the same area.

On 20 January 2008:

- At 0020 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight for 5 minutes from its position *ghayn* 41 (Tall al-Rahib) towards the town of Ayta al-Sha`b;

- At 1530 hours, opposite the Ruwaysat al-Hadab position of the Lebanese Army (*lam mim* 6), an Israeli enemy patrol comprising three Hummer vehicles stopped at point BP12, where elements of that patrol alighted and spread out in the woods. A MAG machine-gun was directed from one of those vehicles towards the aforementioned position. The elements of the position increased their level of observation and alertness and took precautionary measures. The enemy elements and vehicles left at 1555, heading towards point *ghayn* 36 west of Khillat Wardah. At 1610 hours, as a truck belonging to the Lebanese Army (*lam mim* 6) passed along the road leading to the centre of Ruwaysat al-Hadab, enemy elements took up a fighting position at point *ghayn* 41 (Tall al-Rahib), pointing their weapons at the aforementioned truck;

- At 1820 hours, an Israeli enemy patrol comprising three Hummer vehicles left point *ghayn* 23 (Birkat Risha). When the said patrol arrived at Tarbikha gate, east of point *ghayn* 28 (south of Marwahin), some of its elements alighted. When those elements left at 1835 hours, they shined the searchlights mounted on their vehicles for 10 seconds towards the Marwahin triangle.

On 21 January 2008:

- At 0459 hours, the Israeli enemy shined a searchlight for one minute from the western gate of the Zar`it barracks (*ghayn* 30) towards the Marwahin triangle;

- At 2249 hours, from inside occupied Palestinian territory, Israeli enemy forces at the Zar`it barracks, opposite the town of Marwahin, directed a searchlight for 10 seconds in the direction of the Marwahin triangle.